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MONDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 1954

I talked to André de Staercke this morning. From the check-up he made after I left Brussels, in the course of which he saw Spaak, he feels entirely confident of the result of the Belgian Senate vote on ratification. The debate on it, however, may be postponed for ten days.

We lunched with the Chambers. Brose is finding his new duties as President of the American Club interesting but exacting.

Frank Giles called on me this afternoon. He is not optimistic about the French facing up to EDC ratification. I tried to point out to him the silver lining in the cloud.

Later I had a long conference with Harold Callender on the same subject. He is more hopeful than Giles.

I went to Lanvin's Men's Shop this afternoon. Several years ago I had one suit made there and, although it was admirably tailored, the cost seemed to me so high that I never returned. However, in desperation and for the sake of convenience, I am back again in their hands. This time I find that, by paying in dollars, I can buy suits for 75,000 francs with a discount of 12 percent, which is considerably less than similar garments would cost in New York although about 25 percent higher than they are in London.

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